



United States Air Force

ONLINE news

Vol. 1, No. 18

The official USAF newspaper (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>)

July 14, 1999

Inside

- Letters to the editor 2
- What a difference a day makes 2
- C-141 pilot earns trophy 3
- 12 Outstanding Airmen 4

Critical career fields open

- AF turns to prior service members to fill shortages

By Master Sgt. Linda Brandon
Headquarters
United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — In light of sliding retention and the first projected recruiting shortfall in 20 years, the Air Force is turning to prior service members interested in rejoining the service to help fill critical manning needs.

While not a new concept, the Enlisted Prior Service Program isn't something the Air Force has used extensively since the manning draw-down of the early 1990s. Before that, it was not uncommon for 1,000 to 3,000 prior service recruits to participate in the program, according to Chief Master Sgt. Danny Roby, chief of enlisted accession policy for the Air Force.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Rose Reynolds

The Air Force wants you back: *Until recently prior service recruiting was limited to a few critically undermanned career fields like combat control and pararescue. Now, 117 of the 210 Air Force career fields are open to prior service recruits who meet eligibility requirements.*

This year, for the first time in more than a decade, the Air Force doubled its target of prior service recruits from 300 to 600. So far in Fiscal Year 1999, 424 prior service recruits

continued on Page 4

Battlelabs prove their worth

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey
Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — In their second year of existence, Air Force battlelabs are paying big dividends for the service. Payment has come in the form of more than 20 initiatives aimed at improving warfighting capabilities.

Battlelabs look at how to apply existing technology to operational and logistical Air Force concepts. Most of the initiatives focus on information superiority and precision engagement.

Two initiatives involve the concept of air tasking orders, the directive a unit follows to carry out its mission. In the case of an airstrike

sortie over Kosovo, an ATO gives the pilot visual guidance on where to fly. The ATO visualization and assessment initiative aids an air operations center with producing and executing the order. The second initiative, the Hill ATO Defrager, makes a computer print-out easier to read.

With 40 more improvements proposed among the six battlelabs, Lt. Col. Blake Lindner, chief, Air Force Battlelab Integration Division, said the concept offers the most for the money.

"It allows senior leadership to modern-

continued on Page 3

NEWSBYTES

Ranks will go unchanged

Based on the recommendations of an air staff working group and the command chief master sergeants, the Air Force has no plans at this time to rename the first four enlisted ranks.

Earlier this year, the Air Education and Training Command suggested the change in an effort to free up the term airmen for more general use. The idea was that if "airmen" did not refer to any specific grade, it could be used more freely to refer to all blue suiters, in the same way that "soldiers" and "sailors" is used to refer to uniformed members of the Army and Navy.

The reasons most often cited by both the working group and the command chief master sergeants for not pressing ahead with the suggested changes were:

Any confusion between the core term "airmen" and the junior enlisted rank names was not viewed as a serious concern at this time.

Many feel the importance of maintaining "airmen" and the junior enlisted rank names as part of our Air Force heritage may outweigh any perceived benefits of changing.

Emergency airdrop

In total darkness, a C-141 from McCord Air Force Base, Wash., made two 700-foot passes near the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station successfully airdropping four 350-pound bundles of medical supplies and two bundles of food and mail Sunday, July 11.

The medical supplies are for treatment of an American scientist at the station who discovered a lump in her breast. It is impossible to airlift the scientist out at this time because of the pole's severe winter weather.



Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

Two sides to Stop-Loss

I've read many of the letters pertaining to the whole Stop-Loss issue and I feel both sides have a right to argue their points. ...yes, I did sign a contract saying I would defend the United States by serving in the Air Force. However, with the signing of the contract came an obligation that was defined. ...I fulfilled my obligation, and would expect the Air Force to honor the contract I came in under. ...If someone gripes about it, let them. After all isn't that what we're defending — our rights as established in the U.S. Constitution?

Sean J. Murphy
Dover AFB, Del.

Feeling unappreciated

Now that the issue of Stop-Loss is winding down, what is the Air Force planning to do about the severe manning crunch? All the focus is put on the pilots and navigators and the talk is on how to give them more money to stay. Unfortunately, no one is talking about the enlisted force. ...Why can't the Air Force open up its wallet and entice us to stay? ...

Dan Foster
Robins AFB, Ga.

Stumped by bonus program

I'm stumped. ...I am a prior service member who came back to active duty recently — seems the Air Force is critically manned in my career field. When I came through the recruiter and Military Entrance Processing Station, I made sure to ask about a bonus. Nope, no bonus for you. ...OK. I'm just happy to be serving again. ...there was an enlistment and a reenlistment bonus offered...I didn't fit into either category for bonus purposes anyway. ...The thousands of dollars I...saved the government by coming back in, and they give some kid off the street a bonus. Well, thank you U.S. Air Force. And why exactly are you having retention problems?

Senior Airman David Kienzle
Nellis AFB, Nev.

A good thing!

I believe raising the current age limit for flying training is probably the best idea ever implemented by Air Force leadership. This simple act opens the door to the undergraduate pilot training application process for many enlisted people... the AF wins!

Senior Master Sgt. Jack De Forrest III
Volkel AB, The Netherlands

What a difference a day makes

S

By Capt. Mike Pierson
Headquarters United States Air Force

ince the beginning of the Kosovo conflict, I have tried to keep track of the attacks upon and support for aerospace power in the press. As the war began I expected, as anyone trained as a journalist would, to find two sides to the story. What I found were not just two, but many sides that were mostly unfriendly to aerospace power's potential.

As they did before Operation Deliberate Force brought the Serbs to the Dayton Peace Talks in 1995, many critics said aerospace power would not work without at least the threat of a ground assault. History, they said, proved it so.

Other sides used the conflict to whip up moral and financial support for an American military whose readiness and morale are beginning to fray, according to its leaders. Many pundits used the conflict as an opportunity to wave partisan political flags. Some of the more shrill commentators claimed that waging war from afar was

■ Aerospace power critics — and even some supporters — failed to comprehend how much warfare and even the definition of warfare have changed.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

somehow cowardly, even immoral.

However, what many aerospace power critics — and even some supporters — failed to comprehend is how much warfare and even the definition of warfare have changed. Wars are no longer restricted to massive force-on-force clashes where masses of men are thrown together on a lethal battlefield struggling for a piece of turf.

Today's military forces fight in a wide spectrum of conflict where the lines are not easily drawn. We feed refugees, enforce no-fly zones and bomb power stations, sometimes all at the same time and over the course of many months or years. There is no clear-cut beginning or end to these

conflicts, no declaration of war to steel the nation's resolve or victory parade to put it all behind us.

Warfare will not always be about seizing territory. Often, it is simply about getting the other side to the bargaining table.

Call it what you will, but in this new world, aerospace power proved that it could be decisive. No, aerospace power alone will not always bring a decisive victory; it is usually best employed as part of a joint operation. However, in many situations it can be critical to our nation's success.

We, as airmen, need to be cautious about crowing too loudly over the success of aerospace power in Operation Allied Force. A true peace in the region may well depend on good muddy-booted allied troops on the ground protecting the Kosovar Albanians.

However, we need to be proud of our accomplishments and recognize that the nature of warfare has changed because of the unique attributes of aerospace power, and the U.S. Air Force way.

Editor's note: Captain Pierson is assigned to the Air Force's national defense review office.



A first

C-141 Reserve pilot earns Koren Kolligian Trophy

As the 1998 recipient of the Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy, Air Force Reserve Capt. Mark S. Barker, 459th Airlift Wing, Andrews Air Force Base, Md., is the first C-141 pilot to receive this award.

The annual award recognizes Air Force aircrew members who exhibit extraordinary skill in minimizing or averting an aircraft accident.

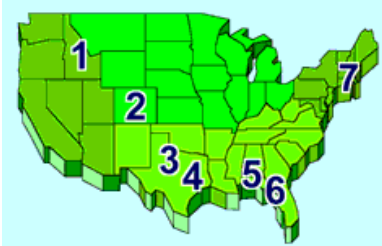
Captain Barker landed a 300,000 pound airlifter loaded with 100,000 pounds of fuel in a 20-knot crosswind without nose wheel steering or anti-skid brakes.

None of the seven crewmembers or nearly 40 passengers aboard the aircraft were injured.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan presented the trophy at the Pentagon, July 9.

Battlelabs prove their worth

U.S. Air Force Battlelabs



U.S. Air Force battlelabs include six unique labs to rapidly advance warfighting concepts.

The six labs are: 1) the Air Expeditionary Force Battlelab (Air Combat Command), Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB), Id.; 2) the Space Battlelab (Air Force Space Command), Chreiver AFB, Colo.; 3) the Information Warfare Battlelab (Air Intelligence Agency), Kelly AFB, Texas; 4) the Force Protection Battlelab (Security Forces Center), Lackland AFB, Texas; 5) the Command and Control Battlelab (Air Combat Command), Hurlburt Field, Fla.; and 6) the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Battlelab (Air Combat Command), Eglin AFB, Fla. A seventh lab (7) is also being explored to develop advanced concepts supporting mobility missions involving Air Mobility Command as the Air Force leg of the U.S. Transportation Command with counterparts from the Army and Navy.

continued from Page 1

ize fairly cheaply and provides a go-to place for ideas," Colonel Lindner said. "It's cheaper for industry to develop the initiative, then we apply it."

Armed with a \$6 million budget, labs have 18 months to close out an initiative once it starts. Each battlelab has approximately 25 military members and civilians who sort out the most promising initiatives. The Information Warfare Battlelab for instance, cut down its 190 proposed ideas to eight.

Approved initiatives fall under one of the following labs:

- Information Warfare
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
- Air Expeditionary Force
- Space
- Command and Control
- Force Protection

The future holds some of the battlelabs' toughest challenges, accord to Colonel Lindner. They will be examining a seventh battlelab and transitioning battlelab initiatives.

Aside from the six battlelabs already in existence, senior leadership is taking a closer look at the possibility of standing up an Air Mobility Command lab because of the command's close relationship with the warfighting mission.

Colonel Lindner said AMC will cater to airpower for everyone. As the Air Force leg to the U.S. Transportation Command, AMC falls in line with its other mobility counterparts in the Army (Military Traffic Management Command) and Navy (Military Sealift Command).

Moving existing battlelab initiatives from paper proposals to practice in the field is another area of concern.

"Right now there's no way to transition the ideas into actually buying them for the Air Force," Colonel Lindner said. "We have all these great ideas and no way to field them. Battlelabs were never part of the procurement system."

The battlelab integration division along with Air Force acquisition and financial management are working together to find a way to institute a transition process.

"If the focus of battlelabs is to expedite that two-year dead time, then we have to have this in the equation," Colonel Lindner said. "We're a service born of technology. It fits with our culture. If we're not changing, we're not comfortable. We don't want to fight fair, we want to dominate. We want new surprises, new toys for every war."

Page 3

Coalition aircraft respond to Iraqi fire

UNITED STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND — Between approximately 10:00 a.m. and noon Iraqi time Tuesday, July 13, Operation Northern Watch aircraft were shot at by Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery fire.

Responding in self-defense, U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagles and F-16C Fighting Falcons dropped GBU-10 and GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on an intelligence and operations center southeast of Mosul. This site is used to process information from radars that in-turn target coalition aircraft.

Damage to Iraqi forces is currently being assessed. All coalition aircraft departed the area safely.

Coalition aircraft have been enforcing the Northern No-fly Zone for more than eight



years. Since Dec. 28, 1998, Saddam Hussein has opted to challenge this enforcement by targeting coalition aircraft with radar, surface-to-air missile systems and anti-aircraft artillery. Operation Northern Watch aircraft will respond in self-defense to these threats while continuing to enforce the no-fly zone.



Prior service needed to fill shortages

continued from Page 1

have returned to active duty, up from the 196 who came back last year.

"The program was originally created to help meet overall recruiting needs and fill experience shortfalls within certain career fields," said Chief Roby. "For the Air Force, the ability to put a trained, experienced person in a vacancy that is impacting the mission is one of the biggest benefits of the program."

While bringing back 600 airmen may not seem like enough to make a dent in the Air Force's anticipated shortfall of 2,500 new recruits for 1999, it's just one piece of the puzzle according to the chief.

"It doesn't seem very high unless one of those airmen is going out to a unit that's working 14 or 15 hours a day because they're one or two people short. Then, it's a lot," he said.

As the number of prior service recruits the Air Force would like to bring back increases, so does the number of Air Force specialties in which prior service recruits are needed.

A list that was once limited to a very small group of career fields targeting hard-to-fill specialties like combat controllers, pararescue and linguists has expanded to include all career fields with less than 100 percent manning. Out of a total of 210 Air Force specialties, 117 are open to prior service recruits who meet eligibility requirements.

In most cases, meeting eligibility requirements means potential applicants must be an E-4 to E-6 with less than 12 years of total active federal military service.

The chief said security forces and aircraft maintenance are two areas where large num-

bers of prior service members are coming back. There have been 74 security forces prior service recruits this year alone.

Mass mail-outs are one way the Air Force targets potential prior service recruits. However, Chief Roby said many are also prompted to return to the Air Force as a result of the same marketing done to attract new recruits. "Things like TV ads can also spur interest in the prior service program," he said.

Earlier this year, for the first time in its 52-year history, the Air Force began buying television advertising. Through September 2000, the service will spend \$54 million on television commercials as it competes to attract qualified recruits in a strong economy with numerous job opportuni-

ties.

Senior Airman Nathan Meyer, with the 6th Security Forces Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., left the service after his first enlistment because he was unhappy with where he was and felt he could make more money on the outside.

He was out for 16 months and had just joined the Reserves where he heard through grapevine that the Air Force was recruiting prior service members to come back into security.

Back on active duty just three months now, he said he'd really missed the responsibility, good treatment and quality of people he'd once known in the Air Force. And apparently, he's not alone. He mentioned several others who regretted ever leaving the service and are happy to be back in under the prior service program.

Prior service recruits interested in coming back on active duty in the Air Force should contact their local recruiter.

No longer a limited group

Out of a total of 210 Air Force specialties, 117 are open to prior service recruits who meet eligibility requirements.

Air Force selects 12 Outstanding Airmen

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 1998 are:

Master Sgt. **Michael T. Barrie**, 49th Maintenance Squadron, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

Senior Airman **Gregory A. Coleman**, 366th Training Squadron, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

Staff Sgt. **Angela L. Coyle**, 11th Wing, Bolling AFB, D.C.

Staff Sgt. **James C. Lee**, 45th Security Forces Squadron, Patrick AFB, Fla.

Senior Airman **Aaron F. May**, 23rd Special Tactics Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Technical Sgt. **Darin L. Miley**, 6th Space Operations Squadron, Schriever AFB, Colo.

Staff Sgt. **Edward J. Moore**, Western Defense Sector, McChord AFB, Wash.

Technical Sgt. **Joseph J. O'Keefe**, 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope AFB, N.C.

Senior Airman **Margaret S. Rawls**, 3rd Aerospace Medical Squadron, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

Senior Master Sgt. **Albert M. Romano Jr.**, 23rd Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Master Sgt. **Larry E. Williams**, 652nd Combat Logistics Support Squadron, McClellan AFB, Calif.

Technical Sgt. **Patricia M. Woodham**, Air Mobility Command Headquarters, Scott AFB, Ill.

The winners were selected from a field of 48 enlisted people representing the major commands, direct reporting units and Air Staff agencies. The 48 named are eligible to wear the service-unique 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year ribbon. The winners wear the bronze service star device on the ribbon and the badge for one year from the date of presentation.



U.S. Air Force ONLINE news

U.S. Air Force ONLINE news is produced each Wednesday by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs and is available via Air Force Link (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>). This funded U.S. Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for Air Force members and their families. Content is endorsed by the Department of the Air Force, but is not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or Department of Defense. Editorial offices: SAF/PAI, 901 N. Stuart Suite 605, Arlington VA 22203. Telephone (703) 696-7832, Fax (703) 696-9162. Please post on unit bulletin boards and pass this copy on to others who need current Air Force news and information. Reproduce as needed.

Publishers

Hon. F. Whitten Peters, *Acting Secretary of the Air Force*
Gen. Michael E. Ryan, *Air Force Chief of Staff*

Editor-in-Chief

Col. Ronald T. Rand, *Director of Public Affairs*

Executive Editor

Col. Johnny Whitaker, *Deputy Director of Public Affairs*

Managing Editor

Master Sgt. Linda Brandon

Technical Production

Capt. Bryan Hubbard and Staff Sgt. Cheryl Toner